I.—SWEARING IN OF A NEW MEMBER.

Mr. R. Foulkes made the prescribed oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown and took his seat.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Arms and Ammunitions

Cancellation of gun licences in South Kanara.

* 726 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a large number of gun licences have been recently cancelled in the district of South Kanara; if so, what the number is of the licences so cancelled;

(*b*) what the number is of licences cancelled on the ground that the licence-holders did not purchase cartridges during the current year;

(*c*) whether any notices were issued to the licence-holders or explanation taken from them before the licences were cancelled;

(*d*) whether the gun licences were cancelled by the Collector of South Kanara on his own initiative or under instructions from the Government; and

(*e*) whether the people of Puttur taluk complained to the Collector at the recent jamabandi regarding the cancellation of licences; if so, what action the Collector has taken on the same?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*e*) The Government have no information but have called for it.

(*c*) Neither under the Indian Arms Act, 1878, nor under the Indian Arms Rules, 1924, is it necessary to issue any notice to or obtain the explanation of licensees.

(*d*) No special instructions were issued by the Government to the District Magistrate of South Kanara.

Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt:—" May I know whether the Government have received any further information now? "

The Hon. Sir Mahomed Usman:—" Yes, Sir, we have received further information from the District Magistrate and I shall read it out to the House:—

(1) Number of licences for guns cancelled owing to death of licensees and other causes since August 1933 to 31st December 1933—423.

(2) Number of licences for guns cancelled for non-purchase of ammunition—273.

(3) At the ryots' conference at the jamabandi of Puttur taluk, the cancellation of licences was brought forward as a

grievance but the only concrete instance given was of an elderly Muhammadan trader living in Puttur town. Several licensees brought petitions on the jamabandi days; each petition was dealt with on its merits; but the licences of headmen were renewed whenever they made representations.

"The District Magistrate says that during the year 1933, 963 applications for licences were entertained in his office of which 652 were granted."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I ask whether the Government consider that it is proper to cancel such a large number of licences as 273 for the mere reason that ammunition was not purchased during the year?"

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"It is a matter of opinion."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Are the Government aware that a big landholder was refused licence for the possession of a gun on the mere ground that he had not been purchasing ammunition?"

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"I have no information, Sir. If the hon. Member brings any specific case to the notice of the Government, I will consider the matter."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"Could it not be that if ammunition was not purchased during the year, he might have used the ammunition purchased during the previous year?"

The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"It is hypothetical, Sir."

Police

Recruitment of the members of the Depressed Classes to the constabulary of the District Police Force, Tinnevelly and South Arcot.

*727 *Q.*—Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many police constables have been recruited to the Police Force by the District Superintendents of Police of Tinnevelly and South Arcot since January 1933;

(*b*) how many applied for the post of Police constables;

(*c*) how many of the applicants belonged to the depressed classes, and how many belonged to Christians;

(*d*) whether all of them are taken in service, and if any were rejected, why;

(*e*) whether any circular has been issued to the District Superintendents of Police requiring them to liberally recruit men for service in the Police Force from the depressed classes;

(*f*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place the circular on the table of the House; and

(*g*) whether the Government have taken steps to see if the circular has been respected by the District Officials in the matter of recruitment?